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JAN 28 2000

**Lakewood City Council**

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WARD II - THOMAS J. GEORGE  
WARD III - ROBERT M. SEELIE  
WARD IV - NANCY J. ROTH

**COMMENTS OF  
LAKEWOOD COUNCILMAN AT LARGE  
MICHAEL J. SKINDELL**

**ON THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR POTENTIAL  
REPOSITORY AT YUCCA MOUNTAIN, NYE COUNTY, NEVADA**

**Friday, January 28, 2000  
Cleveland, Ohio**

Good afternoon. My name is Michael J. Skindell and I am here today as Councilman at  
1 Large for the City of Lakewood. I want to begin my comments by commending U.S.  
Congressman Dennis J. Kucinich for requesting the U.S. Department of Energy to conduct a  
public hearing in Northeast Ohio on the Draft EIS and commending the Department of Energy  
for agreeing to conduct a hearing in this region. The decision to hold this public hearing in  
Cleveland is an acknowledgement that transportation of cargo containing high-level radioactive  
waste will likely to have an environmental impact on this populous region.

2... The City of Lakewood is a quiet working class community located just west of  
Cleveland. With a population of 59,718 according to the 1990 U.S. Census contained in a 5.6  
square mile area, Lakewood is the most densely populated community between New York City  
and Chicago. Our community has respectable property values and the residents enjoy a high  
quality of life. The proposal to ship high-level radioactive waste from the nation's commercial



...2 nuclear plants to the Yucca Mountain Radioactive Wasted Repository in Nevada, would certainly lessen the quality of life treasured by Lakewood citizens.

Although the DoE has not made any commitments as to the specific routes, waste volumes, or timing of this dangerous shipping campaign; it is clear that routes through the heart of the City of Lakewood, because of its unique location, are most likely to be the favored routes for this proposal. Transecting the Lakewood community is the "Nickel Plate" rail line utilized by both Norfolk Southern and CSX. There are 27 rail/street crossings on this line in the City of Lakewood. In the City of Lakewood alone, the rail line goes through the backyards of hundreds of single family and multiple family homes. The rail tracks are located next to the Westerly and North Westerly, a housing complex for senior citizens, and run along several secondary school buildings. Highway commercial traffic traveling west from the East Coast utilizes I-90, which runs along the southern border of Lakewood. Like many residents of Cleveland, Lakewood, Rocky River and Westlake, I can stand on my front porch and watch the traffic on I-90. Should this section of I-90 be utilized, this high level radioactive waste would be transported within several hundred feet of thousands of homes.

Transportation of this waste through the populated areas of Northeast Ohio would be irresponsible and demonstrate the lack of concern for respecting the peace of mind of tens of thousands of citizens. Implementation of such a proposal would be another attack on the aging inner ring suburbs such as Lakewood. Exposing our citizens to the dangers of transporting high level radioactive waste would most certainly result in our citizens moving to areas away from the transportation routes. Who would want to have their children play in back yards through which massive amounts of nuclear waste are passing? Who would want to have their children go to school where the schoolhouses are located within feet of the rail tracks on which deadly waste is being transported?

3... As an elected councilman representing nearly 60,000 citizens, the most significant concern I have is emergency response to a radiological accident. Lakewood is not equipped with a nuclear response team. Rocky River is not equipped with a nuclear response team. Berea, Bay Village and Westlake are not equipped with nuclear response teams. Our communities struggle to repair our aging streets and water lines and do not have the money to staff and equip nuclear response teams. Yet, it our emergency response units that will be first at a scene of a nuclear accident. What will protect these public servants, which continuously put their lives on the line for the citizens of our communities, from the effects of being exposed to a nuclear accident in which the rail cars or highway trucks are engulfed in flames? What knowledge will they have of the deadly cargo being transported upon arrival at the scene of an accident?

...2 On Tuesday, January 18, 2000, in a general meeting of council open to the public, Lakewood City Council voted unanimously to oppose the transportation of high-level nuclear waste through Lakewood. I am proud today to deliver to you a resolution approved by Council and signed by our Mayor, Madeline Cain. As responsible elected officials, we do not want to see a shifting of burdens from one populous community to another. This waste should not and must not be shipped through populated regions of the country.

4 Should our Federal Government implement a disposal plan for this deadly waste which results in its transportation through populated areas such as Northeast Ohio, the DoE and the U.S. Congress should ensure the following:

- That communities are notified at least two weeks in advance of the date, time and manner of shipment of such waste through the particular community;
- That the Federal Government fully fund the establishment of nuclear response teams that are able to respond to a nuclear accident within five minutes;

...4

- That regulations are written to provide appropriate signage on trucks and rail cars to clearly notify the public of the hazardous cargo;
- That regulations are written to provide for a “safe” speed in which trucks and rail cars carrying such cargo may travel through our communities;
- That regulations are written to provide for training and certification of those transporting this cargo through our communities;

...3

- That the Federal Government fully funds training of hospital personnel in communities through which this cargo may pass.

5

Most importantly, the DoE and the U.S. Congress must take every necessary step to ensure that we leave our planet to our children in a better condition than we found it.

RESOLUTION NO.: 7453-00

BY: Corrigan, FitzGerald, George, Roth,  
Seelie, Skindell, Smith

6... A RESOLUTION opposing legislation and agency regulation, which would lead to the transport, by railway and highway, of shipments of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste through the City of Lakewood.

WHEREAS, the United States Congress is considering legislation and the United States Department of Energy is considering regulations which will permit the transportation of spent nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste across the country for disposal at the interim facility at Yucca Mountain, Nye County, Nevada.

WHEREAS, these proposals authorize and direct the transportation of high-level nuclear waste on an unprecedented and massive scale and would likely result in the shipment of dangerous radioactive waste by way of trucks on I-90 and by way of rail on the Nickel Plate railway line through the City of Lakewood;

WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood, with a population of 59,718 according to the 1990 U.S. Census in a 5.6 square mile area, is the most densely populated community between New York City and Chicago, and maintains respectable property values and is a city where its residents enjoy a high quality of life;

7 WHEREAS, there are many unanswered questions regarding the safety of transporting and storing radioactive waste;

8 WHEREAS, the City of Lakewood, like most communities, is without sufficient trained emergency personnel, equipment, and financial resources to completely safeguard its residents in the event of a nuclear transport accident, and the shipment of nuclear waste materials through the City of Lakewood would therefore be a major risk to the community;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, STATE OF OHIO:

6... Section 1. That this Council opposes the transportation, either by highway or railway, of high-level nuclear waste (irradiated nuclear fuel) through the City of Lakewood:

9 Section 2. That this Council encourages the United States Congress to consider all ramifications of nuclear waste transportation and storage before any transportation efforts begin and preempt all plans to transport high-level radioactive waste until the Department of Energy has identified and constructed a viable long-term disposal facility and has physically tested and proven safe the methods of transportation;

Section 3. That the Clerk of Council be and she is hereby authorized and directed to forward copies of this resolution to Ohio's Congressional Delegation, Governor Bob Taft, State Senator Dan Brady and State Representative Bryan Flannery and that a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of this meeting.

Adopted:

January 18, 2000

President

Robert M. Seelie

Clerk

Mary Hagan

Approved:

January 19, 2000

Mayor

Michael A. Cain